REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application and are at issue.

The amendments are described in more detail below. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121, a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the present amendment is attached hereto following the signature page of this amendment. The first page of the marked-up version of the changes is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

This preliminary amendment adds no new matter. The claims have been amended to delete multiple dependencies.

It is submitted that this amendment should be entered and that the claims are in proper form for examination. Early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, the examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
(Spatafora PCT/IT00/00350)

Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12-14 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A gumming device as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], wherein said valve (29) comprises a valve seat (32) for the passage of said gum (2), a movable valve body (30), and an actuating device (33) for moving said movable valve body (30), in a control direction (31) crosswise to said central axis (7), to and from a closed position closing said valve seat (32).

5. (Amended) A gumming device as claimed in Claim 3 [or 4], wherein said valve (29) comprises an articulated parallelogram (35) connecting said valve body (30) to said applicator body (6); said articulated parallelogram (35) keeping the valve body (30) in said closed position in the absence of an opening thrust generated by said actuating device (33).

6. (Amended) A gumming device as claimed in [any one of Claims 1 to 5] <u>Claim 1</u>, wherein said channel (17) comprises at least one capillary portion (20).

8. (Amended) A gumming device as claimed in [any one of Claims 1 to 7] <u>Claim 1</u>, wherein said applicator body (6) comprises a cylindrical drum (12) coaxial with said central axis (7); and a gumming disk (13), which is coaxial with said central axis (7), is

connected removably to said cylindrical drum (12) to rotate with the cylindrical drum (12) about said central axis (7), and has a cylindrical lateral surface (22) coaxial with said central axis (7) and defining said application surface (22).

9. (Amended) A gumming device as claimed in [any one of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1, and comprising a number of said channels (17), each defined inside said applicator body (6) and terminating with a respective said opening (21).

12. (Amended) A gumming device as claimed in [any one of Claims 1 to 11] Claim 1, and comprising a cleaning device (46) acting on said application surface (22); said cleaning device (46) comprising at least one nozzle (47) for spraying a jet (50) of pressurized cleaning fluid tangentially with respect to said application surface (22).

13. (Amended) A gumming device as claimed in [any one of Claims 1 to 12] Claim 1, wherein said supply means (24) comprise a first tank (43) for said gum (2); a second tank (42) for a cleaning fluid; and valve means (44) for selectively connecting said two tanks (42, 43) to said channel (17).

14. (Amended) A gumming device as claimed in [any one of Claims 1 to 13] Claim 1, and comprising actuating means (45) for moving said applicator body (6) between a gumming station (S1), for applying said gum (2) to said article (4), and a cleaning station (S2).